Document No.: AK-040-03-AD-028

# Administrative Determination (AD) Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA) U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management Anchorage Field Office

A. BLM Office: Anchorage Field Office Lease/Serial Case File No.: AA-84657, AA-84546, AA-85219, AA-75074, AA-80481

Proposed Action Title/Type: Special Recreation Permits for commercial guides.

Location of Proposed Action: The Proposed Action is located on BLM-administered lands within State Guide Use Area (GUA) 09-03, 09-04, 17-02, near Lake Iliamna and Game Management Unit (GMU) 19 farther north in the Kuskokwim drainage upstream from Lower Kalskag River.

Description of the Proposed Action: The five applicants propose to conduct commercial big game guiding on public lands in GUA 09-03, 09-04, 17-02 and 19. These lands are located on the north, south and west side of Lake Iliamna. The bear hunting season is May 10 through 25, during the even years, and October 1 through 21, during the odd years. Caribou hunting season typically runs from August 1 through March 31. A description of each outfitter's operation follows:

## Don Willis AA-84657

Mr. Willis has applied to conduct guided brown bear hunting for both the spring and fall hunting seasons in GUA 09-04. He expects to have no more than four clients each year. Base camp will be located on the northeastern shore of Kirschner Lake (Section 1, T. 9 S., R. 28 W., SM). Two wall tents would be used for cooking, eating, and socializing. Four-man, self-standing tents would be used for clientele and guides. Spike camps are utilized in the event that hunters travel a long distance from camp or weather prevents the safe return to camp. All hunting will take place on foot within a 15 mile radius of the base camp. Access to base camp will be provided by a local air charter service. A waste hole will be used for the privy and wastewater disposal.

## Laine Lahndt AA-84546

Mr. Lahndt has applied to conduct guided brown bear hunting for both the spring and fall hunting seasons in GUA 09-04. He expects to have no more than four clients each year. Base camp is located on CIRI land at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain in Iniskin Bay (Section 2, T. 5 S., R. 25 W., SM). A spike camp is requested nearby on BLM managed land located at Section 35, T. 4 S., R. 25 W., SM. The spike camp will be a temporary structure and will be completely removed at the end of the season. All hunting will take place on foot and by inflatable boat. Access to the base camp is by chartered aircraft (Bald Mountain Air Service). A waste hole will be used for the privy and wastewater disposal and will be completely filled in at the end of the hunt.

# <u>Jason Wallace – Rugged Rock Guide Service AA-85219</u>

Mr. Wallace has applied to conduct guided caribou and brown bear hunting within GUA 09-04 from September 25 through October 10. He expects to have no more than four clients each year. Base camp will be located on the eastern shore of Reindeer Lake (Section 33, T. 12 S., R. 38 W., SM). Camp will consist of three, self standing tents that will be removed at the end of the hunt. All hunting will take place on foot. Access to base camp will be provided via chartered floatplane. A waste hole will be used for the privy and wastewater disposal and will be completely filled in at the end of the hunt.

# Ted Forsi – Ted's Trophy Alaska Fishing & Hunting Trips AA-75074

Mr. Forsi has applied to conduct guided caribou, moose, bear and occasional guided fishing trips to nearby streams within GUA 09-03, 09-04, and 17-02. He expects to have as many as 25 clients throughout the year. Activities will be based from his base camp located on BLM administered land, Section 17, T. 7 S., R. 40 W., SM (base of Stuyahok Hills). Camp consists of one cook tent, three sleeping tents, one outhouse, and one meat rack. All tents are wood framed with plastic walls and roofs including the outhouse. All hunting will take place on foot. Access to base camp will be provided via wheeled airplane. A natural sand/gravel runway is located adjacent to the camp. A pit will be dug and the outhouse placed over top of it. Storage of camp material is requested.

## Burr Henriksen – Alaska Safari and Trading Co. AA-80481

Mr. Henriksen has applied to conduct guided and unguided caribou, moose, bear hunts and occasional guided fishing trips. He is licensed to operate in GMU 09, 17, and 19 and requests permission to cross and hunt on BLM managed land in those units. He does not expect to camp or set up any facilities on BLM managed land. He expects to have between 20 and 30 clients throughout the year. All hunting will take place on foot. Access to hunting locations will take place by aircraft and/or boat.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name: Southcentral Management Framework Plan (MFP)

Date Approved: March 1980

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Southcentral MFP and is provided for in the following decisions: Activity Objectives Recreation (R-3), Wildlife (WL-4) and Minerals (M-2). These decisions do not directly address special recreation permits, but recognize that hunting, fishing, and trapping are legitimate uses of public land.

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the Proposed Action.

AK-040-02-EA-020: Environmental Assessment: Special Recreation Permit for Guided Big Game Hunts. This document is on file in the Anchorage Field Office.

# D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- Is the current Proposed Action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current Proposed Action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?
   The Proposed Action analyzed in AK-040-02-EA-020 is for guiding in the same general area. The use, locations, access, duration, and time of year are substantially the same.
- 2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

  Yes. Additional alternatives beyond the No Action Alternative were not viewed as necessary at the time of the analysis and current concerns, interests and resource values are the same.
- 3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances? No new information has become available that would change the existing analysis.
- 4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current Proposed Action? Yes. The analysis used in the previous document is still appropriate.
- 5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current Proposed Action?
  - Yes. No additional direct or indirect impacts have been identified and are substantially unchanged. Site specific impacts analyzed in AK-040-02-EA-020 are the same as for the current Proposed Action.
- 6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?
  - Yes. Cumulative impacts are substantially the same for the Proposed Action as those analyzed in the existing NEPA document.

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- 7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current Proposed Action?

  Yes. State land managers have been made aware of the current Proposed Action and concur in the action.
- E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:

Dave Doucet, Lead Preparer

The action has been reviewed by all disciplines on the Resources and Realty staffs (see the attached NEPA routing form).

F. Mitigation Measures:

No mitigation measures are required beyond those listed in the stipulations and conditions for special recreation permits.

G. Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM 's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

/s/ June Bailey	09-09-03
Anchorage Field Manager	Date